

Remarks at the Congressional Picnic June 18, 2003

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. Laura and I and Dick and Lynne are so happy you all are here. And we're really happy it's not raining. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I bet you are.

First, we're so thrilled that Dennis Edwards and the Temptations Review has joined us tonight. We expect to see some serious rug-cutting or, in this case, grass-cutting. [*Laughter*]

We do want to thank the families who are here. We're so grateful for the wives and husbands of the Members of the Senate and the Congress for being so patient with your loved ones and for supporting them in their service to the United States of America. We want to thank the sons and daughters as well for understanding your dad and your mom are serving something greater than themselves in life.

I want to thank all the Members of Congress from both political parties for doing such a fine job on behalf of the United States of America. You know what I know: We're blessed to live in a great country. And one of the things that makes us great is we've got tremendous values. We believe in freedom, respect for others, personal responsibility. And today is a day for us all to come together and to celebrate those fantastic values and for us—for Laura and me and for Dick and Lynne—to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation for serving our country so well.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Enjoy yourselves.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Remarks in Fridley, Minnesota June 19, 2003

Thank you all very much. Forget the Spam; I like coming to Minnesota because of the people. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming today, and I appreciate the warm welcome.

Speaking about sports teams, I had the honor of hosting some sports teams there in the White House this week, two of which happened to be from the great State of Minnesota. It seems like the folks up here know how to play hockey. I welcomed the men's and women's hockey national champs from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and University of Minnesota-Duluth. And I've got to tell you, I was impressed by the character of the people on those teams. I know you're proud of

them. It's an honor to have met them. They told me I'm going to see them next year, so—[*laughter*—just like I saw them last year. [*Laughter*]

But it's great to be here. I also want to thank the Hamiltons, Harold and Eleanor, for opening up their business to—[*applause*]. Harold told me that he started his business at the kitchen table. It's really what America is all about, when you think about it. Thirty years ago, Harold and Eleanor sat down at the kitchen table—it might have been before lunch or after lunch, I don't know which one—but they said, "Why don't we see if we can't create an opportunity for not only our family but for others, an opportunity to work."